

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

**JAMES'S SUBSTANCE AND SHADOW.** OR, MORALITY AND REASON IN THEIR RELATION TO LIFE. BY HENRY JAMES. 12mo. Pp. 32. Ticknor & Fields.

The lovers of philosophical discussion in this country have rarely found more suggestive and elegant materials for thought than are presented in the writings of the author of this volume. Without claiming to be the founder of a complete system of morals or metaphysics, Mr. James never fails to set before his readers the results of profound and original reflection; his criticisms of the pretensions of the most eminent names in the history of speculation are searching as a surgeon's probe; his own convictions are sustained with a formidable power of logic; while in the command of ingenious and brilliant illustration in connection with abstract reasoning, it would be difficult to name his rival among modern writers.

The present volume pursues the same course of analysis and argument which has become familiar to the student of Mr. James's former productions; but it exhibits his conclusions in fresh lights and novel relations; many collateral topics are introduced and summarily disposed of; the theories of Kant and Sir William Hamilton are made the subjects of a special examination, remarkable for its humorous juiciness of statement; and the application of the religious philosophy of the author to the institutions of society and the wants of the age evinces his characteristic earnestness of appeal, depth of feeling, and force of expression.

The scope of the book, as we gather from an attentive survey, is, to vindicate Creation not as a mere historic but as a philosophic reality; not as an incident in space and time—since these fall within Creation, not outside of it—but as the inexorable postulate of consciousness itself. He holds Creation to be primarily a spiritual process, and only derivatively a natural one; so that if we would put ourselves at the right point of view for envisaging the problem, we must recognize man, who is the only spiritual being we know, as the true Divine end in Creation, and regard Nature exclusively as a means to his development, as the vehicle of his proper consciousness.

Why is Nature required for this purpose? The answer, for which, however, Mr. J. professes his indebtedness to Swedenborg, is easy to be understood. For evidently God, inasmuch as He is himself Life, cannot create life, but only communicate it, and in order to such communication, organic forms or subjects must exist prepared to receive it. Now Nature alone supplies these receptive forms, since the exact distinction of natural existence from spiritual is, that it has not life in itself, but derives it from without; not itself. Spiritual existence is free or spontaneous, obeying an exclusively inward object. Natural existence is servile or voluntary, obeying an outward object. Thus Nature alone furnishes forms suitable to house the Divine communication; because all her forms, being purely subjective or disowning their proper objectivity—i. e., being in themselves void of life, destitute of spiritual substance—are therefore incapable of excluding the Divine communication. If they did involve their own objectivity; if they had life in themselves; they would of course defeat the Divine communication, or render it nugatory; for all life is one; and consequently where it already exists, it cannot be given.

So far all is plain. Nature is a basis and only a basis for the spiritual creation, just as marble is a basis and only a basis for the manifestation of the sculptor's genius. But now why is it, if the analogy between Nature and the marble be so close, that the product of one is living or conscious, of the other lifeless or unconscious? It is that God himself invariably creates or spiritually vivifies Nature, so that all her forms are conscious or alive on the mother's side; while the sculptor does not himself inwardly create or spiritually impregnate the marble, but on the contrary manipulates it exclusively from without; so that the result of his operation is a wholly lifeless, unconscious form. This is the great aim of Mr. James's book accordingly—to show that God gives his creature natural identity as well as spiritual individuality, and gives him the latter indeed only by means of giving him the former. Hence arises a doctrine of Nature pregnant with practical consequences; shedding such ample light, as Mr. James conceives, upon the actual course of history or the development of the human mind, that we can only refer our reader to the book itself for a full exposition of it, while we confine ourselves here to a rapid summary of its main features.

The essence of Nature, according to Mr. James, is *community*; which means, the alliance of an identical or common substance with a specific or individual form; there being absolutely no natural existence conceivable, which does not exhibit a substantial identity with, and a formal distinction from, all other existences. Throughout the entire realm of Nature, accordingly, the principle of identity is paramount, and that of individuality subordinate; there being no form so specific as not to be at bottom a mere modification of the common substance and obedient to its laws; nor yet any substance so universal as not to be limited or determined by each of these specific forms. It is this essential community of Nature, this subjection of the individual to the common life, which stamps Nature an inversion of spirit, and so qualifies her forever to separate between creator and creature, by organizing the finite consciousness. In spiritual existence the principle of individuality is paramount, and that of identity or universality is subordinate; so that every one whose consciousness is anchored in Nature, lies under a permanent spiritual disability. Thus Nature spiritually separates between creator and creature, between God and man, by making the latter's life or consciousness involve such an inversion of the other's perfection, as proves creation to be practically a process of perpetual humiliation on God's part, a process of patient crucifixion to all those lusts of pride and covetousness which grow out of our nature's pendency, and test its absoluteness.

But of course it would be too revolting to be sought of for a moment, that God could be humiliated in himself, or crucified as to what is really Divine in Him. No, He is humiliated only as the personality of His creature, crucified only as the experience of a certain seed or offspring, in whom this principle of individuality asserts itself as rightfully paramount to that of universality, and leads them consequently in all manner of conscious direction and excess. The instant that un-

derlies the self-assertion of these men is undoubtedly Divine, and will sooner or later receive its plenary Divine justification. But inasmuch as they have as yet no perception of the Divine NATURAL humanity, nor consequently any intelligence of Nature's essential subordination to man, but on the contrary suppose her to constitute the true measure of God's power and the limit of their own being, they regard every infraction of her order as absolutely repugnant to the Divine name, and confess themselves rebels against it. These men constitute what is called the Church of God, not the visible but the spiritual church; because the personal humility and compassionate tenderness toward others which are bred in them by their conviction of sin, alone attest God's spiritual presence in his creature.

But the Divine humiliation does not end in itself, does not take place for its own sake, but is rightly in order to a subsequent superb glorification. In other words, the Church at last begets the State; the priest inducts the king. For this experience of individual corruption in the bosom of men cannot take place without gradually leaving the whole public mind of the race; without transferring itself at last to the public or associated consciousness; so that finally men will learn to deride the idea of any specific or individual merit and demerit before God, and look upon their personal or characteristic differences, only as so many marks of their various relation to society—as so many signs plus or minus of their subjective participation of the social spirit. In this way the hitherto dominant and oppressive principle of identity or universality, becomes spiritually softened and modified in the experience of the race into such complete and spontaneous subservience to the individual principle, that human society, human brotherhood, or fellowship, flowers as it were out of a natural root, and puts on ere long every vivid and vigorous lineament of God's intimate and abiding presence. Thus, incited or inaugurated by that Divine spirit in man which is called the Church, his outward State gradually grows up out of its root in the family, through its stem in the tribe, its branches in the city, its foliage in the nation, and its fruitage in the confederacy of nations, until at last it dies out in literal form, only to become resuscitated in glorified spiritual form as a universal society, fellowship, or brotherhood of man. Our two institutions of Church and State, priest and king, outwardly express or symbolize the play of these two inward forces in the invisible heart of the race; the one representing the patient humiliation of the Divine spirit to every form of natural destitution and imbecility on the part of its creature; the other its subsequent spiritual glorification in all the forms of man's varied genesis, and his boundless power over Nature.

Such, according to Mr. James, is the theory of our historic progress. The nominal Church and State however, the typical priest and king, have been utterly blind to the majestic spirit which inwardly informs their respective functions; have incessantly striven in fact to stifle the Divine natural manhood with which their great offices were spiritually big, by converting each the other to the use of its own private arrogance and rapacity. Of course no just quarrel attaches to them on this score, because they are not Divine substances, but only signs or symbols of such substance which are bound to vanish away when the substance comes. This Divine substance—this creative spirit which Mr. James makes to underlie and animate all history—is the SOCIAL force exclusively in humanity; and he conceives moreover that its due and adequate evolution has been strictly contingent upon the envenomed rivalry of Church and State, or priest and king. For in seeking each, as they have been bound to do, to avail themselves of the popular countenance and support against the other, they have unwittingly aroused a slumbering social consciousness in the race which is destined to absorb them both, and exalt them both into a unitary form of manhood so spotless and powerful, as that neither of them by itself has ever been able except most dimly to image it. Such is the inevitable genesis of our social consciousness; and it is exclusively to the advancing tides of this consciousness in our bosoms, and to its eventually omnipotent empire there, that Mr. James, as we understand him, looks for the fulfillment of all sacred prophecy and promise, in cleansing the human mind of its defilement, and making the human body consequently the only visible and every way worthy temple of God's eternal indwelling.

The above summary of some of the leading views of this remarkable work may enable our readers more clearly to comprehend its method and its aims. It cannot be denied that it is liable to the charge of obscurity (as is the case with most original writings on profound themes), partly owing to the nomenclature of the author, in which he inexorably adheres to a peculiar and novel sense in familiar terms, and partly to the intrinsic infirmity of language in embodying in lucid form the fruits of reflection on subjects beyond the scope of sensible experience. But whatever difficulty may be found in always seizing the precise import of the subtle disquisitions, which compose the volume, no one can fail to recognize the spirit of large and noble humanity, and the rare intellectual qualities, with which it is pervaded.

**THE RELIGIOUS DEMANDS OF THE AGE.** A REPRINT OF THE PREFACE TO THE LONDON EDITION OF THE COLLECTED WORKS OF THEODORE PARKER, BY FRANK FOWLER GORDON. 12mo. Pp. 52. Walker, Wise & Co.

A complete edition of the works of Theodore Parker is in course of publication in London, under the superintendence of Miss Frances Power Cobbe, a lady whose treatise on "Intuitive Morals" and other philosophical writings have given her a distinguished place in the higher walks of English literature. The preface now issued in a separate form is an elaborate essay, giving a lucid and accurate exposition of the theological system maintained by Mr. Parker, with some interesting personal reminiscences of his last days at Florence. The following paragraphs will be read with interest by the numerous friends of Mr. Parker in this country:

Theodore Parker's faith, at least, bore this result: it brought out in him one of the noblest and most complete developments of one nature which the world has seen; a splendid development, even to death, of the highest cause, and none the less a most perfect fulfillment of the minor duties and obligations of humanity. Though the last man in the world to claim sanctities for himself, he was yet to all mortal eyes absolutely faithful to the resolution of his boyhood to devote himself to God's immediate service. Living in a land of special personal inquisition, and the mark for thousands of imitators, he was yet free from all his allotted time, beyond the

arrows of calumny; and those who knew him best said that the words he heard over his grave seemed intended for him: "Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God." The lives, which were his favorite flowers, and which lay down laid on his coffin, were not misapplied thereon. Truly, if men cannot guard grapes of thorns, fruit of thistles, then must the root of that most fruitful life have been a sound one.

At last, the end came. The eloquent orations he had poured forth so freely for every righteous cause, and the incessant traveling at all seasons to deliver them, wherever he was called, brought out the tenderness of hereditary disease. His last journey was made in America in the midst of a northern winter, and when he was already ill, to perform a funeral service in a friend's family; or rather to comfort the mourners with his sympathy, and speak to them as he knew so well how to do of God's great love in his affliction. He returned home much worse, but refused to give up working, and prepared, as usual, his sermon for the week. He had never spared himself at any time. The words of a hymn he often called for in his church fitted well his brave, unwaried spirit:

"Shall I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others toil to win the prize,  
On weary, bloody seas?"

Or another, of Whitman's, which he liked equally well:

"Hast thou through life's empty world  
Heard the solemn voice of Time,  
And the low cry of the poor,  
And the low cry of the poor?"

Not to ease and slumber  
Both the inward and outward  
Both to work of love and duty  
As they bring about

Had he understood the gravity of his danger, he would doubtless have accepted the duty, however disagreeable to his habits, of greater care for himself. But it was hard for the strong heart lodged in the powerful frame to believe that its beatings were already numbered, or that it was needed to do already labor that would fill his life. He was not to be deterred by the thought of death, but by the thought of the world, and how inexorable is the law which stops the hand too ready for its holy work, we need not pause to repeat. The Life Beyond must explain it all. At least a man may find his place, and fit himself to fill it, either in the company of the prophets or the humbler ranks of philanthropy, when he has reached the summit of mortal life, and all beyond must be devolved and decay. It is little marvel, then, if those whose hearts are true to their labors "work while it is called the day," even with self-wasteful energy, dreading the inevitable approach of age, if not yet of death; of the day when our "windows shall be darkened," and the grasshopper a burden, "even before the final closing of the night."

Theodore Parker's fourteen years of speechless years were over. On Sunday morning, Jan. 9, 1859, he wrote to his congregation, "I shall not speak to you to-day; for this morning, a little after four o'clock, I had a slight attack of bleeding in the lungs or throat. I hope you will not forget the contribution to the poor. I don't know when I shall again open your welcome to my voice, but I often open my spirit when my flesh was weak." He never saw them (at least from his pulpit) again. Compelled to seek a warmer climate, he sailed with his wife and friends for Santa Cruz, where he spent the winter; and then passed through England on his way to Switzerland, where he enjoyed a while home after his long sojourn in America. He was joined by his friend Professor Deane of Andover, and they passed the winter in Rome as the cold weather drew near. Friends gathered round him, dear and congenial friends, whom he had known and loved at home; and for a while he seemed to do well. But as the Spring drew near, it became evident that the seeds of life were running out. He sank rapidly and hopelessly. His hours of the oppression and torments of the final torments were so great, that he could not endure to lie in bed. He made his friends (among whom was a physician, Dr. Appleton, devoted altogether to his care) carry him away to pass his last hours in a free country. As he passed out of the Roman territory, and saw the Italian tricolor waving by the roadside, the dying man raised his hand and said, "I have lived and died under the emblem of Liberty. By the time he had reached Florence, the fatigue of the journey had left him but a little residue of days to live. He knew it. He had wished to be spared, and felt, as he had said years before in his sermon "Of the Immortal Life," "It is selfish to wish for death, when there is so much need of us here." But when the time came, he was calm as a child. The writer, who, although aided by his friends, was present at his death, found him on his bed of death, conscious of the inevitable future, but looking at it as peacefully as if it had been a summons to his home across the ocean. "You know I am not afraid to die," he said; and here a smile, the most beautiful we ever saw on a human countenance, broke over his face—you know I am not afraid to die, but I would like to live a little longer to finish my work. God gave me large powers, and I have but half used them. I have used them! And he said this in the prime of manhood by over-use of them—by the utter sacrifice of his health and strength in the cause of Truth and Right. He lingered on a few days, gently falling asleep, as it seemed, and drawing, after the wont of the dying, his long wandering, and only waking at intervals, to give a few parting gifts to friends (among others, the bronze inkstand from which these pages are written), and to comfort his wife, and say tender words of thanks for the little offerings of flowers, or night beside him brought him. Now and then he would rouse himself, and speak his old brave thoughts, and say, "I am not afraid to die, but I would like to live a little longer to finish my work. God gave me large powers, and I have but half used them. I have used them! And he said this in the prime of manhood by over-use of them—by the utter sacrifice of his health and strength in the cause of Truth and Right. 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